Statement

Sl. No.	Year	No. of farmers (covered)	Sum Insured (Rs. in lakh)	Claims paid (Rs. in lakh)
1	1985-86	47,839	1101.00	39.19
2	1986-87	49,300	1552 27	132.71
3	1987-88 (As on 15-1-88)	26,637	959 15	10.43

Writing off 80 crores invested in Sindri Rationalisation Project

1850. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state::

(a) whether the Department of Fertilizers has submitted a proposal to write-off Rs. 80 crores invested in Sindri Rationalisation Project as the plant is beyond redemption because of serious technical snags;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the decision taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to institute any enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir; there is such a proposal.

(b) The proposal is to write off:—

(i) assets of Rs. 58.50 crores (Rs. 30.60 crores as equity and Rs. 27.90 crores as loan); and

(ii) accumulated losses of Rs. 86.10 crores suffered by the plant during 1979-80 to 1986-87.

No decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

Scarcity of Milk in Drought hit States

1851. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States, especially the drought hit States, are facing scarcity of milk and milk products;

(b) if so, what is the estimated shortages of milk in various States and how Government propose to maintain the supply of milk;

(c) what actions are proposed to be taken to save the cattle wealth for sustaining the milk supply; and

(d) whether Government are planning to avail milk powder and cattle wealth as part of the foreign aid and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) There had been fall in the availability of milk and milk products during the last drought period. However, there are indications that the situation is improving now.

(b) The steps which had been taken by the Government to ease the situation included (a) liberalisation of procurement prices, (b) augment availability of liquid milk, (c) peg